

MOORE/HOKE SUPERIOR COURT GUIDELINES AS OF MARCH 31,2020

Effective 5 p.m. March 30th, 2020 through April 29,2020 governor Roy Cooper issued a statewide stay-at-home order. Included in his order was a ban on mass gatherings of more than 10 persons in a single room or single space at the same time.

On March 26th and updated on March 30th *the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation for COVID-19* issued *projections* for the state of North Carolina. Their model indicates that 1,721 North Carolinians will die from COVID-19 and that North Carolina will be 278 intensive care beds short at the virus' peak. The model also projects North Carolina deaths will peak around the third week of April, 2020. The institute intends to update the projections regularly based on new information.

Therefore, this court is continuing all superior civil and criminal court cases, for Moore and Hoke counties, past April 29th, 2020 subject to further executive orders by the governor.

This court further orders that the Moore County grand jury, and the Hoke County grand jury, shall not meet until sometime after April 29th, 2020 pending issuance of further executive orders by the governor.

With respect to the hearing of bond motions in Hoke County criminal superior court this week (March 30, 2020), this court will be available to hear such motions via Zoom.

With respect to hearing bond motions in Moore County criminal superior court from April 6th, 2020 until the governor's stay-at-home order is repealed, replaced, or rescinded, this court will be available to hear such motions via Zoom.

With respect to hearing bond motions in Hoke County criminal superior court from April 6th, 2020 until the governor's stay-at-home order is repealed, replaced, or rescinded, presumably, Judge Michael Stone will be available to hear such motions via Zoom.

The following entities must be present via Zoom to hear bond motions:

1. The presiding judge
2. The district attorney or an assistant district attorney
3. The defendant's attorney
4. A representative of the respective clerk of superior court's office, and
5. Court reporter Cynthia Hall

Due to the inherit danger of transferring detainees in the Moore and Hoke County detention facilities, this court is of the opinion that defendants do not need to be present via zoom for the hearing of said bond motions.

It goes without saying that these are uncertain and constantly changing times. As I assume most of you already know, a Mecklenburg County superior court judge and his wife have already tested positive for COVID-19. I also understand the judge was in a jury trial that concluded March 13th and as a result of the judge testing positive all court personnel involved in that trial, including the trial jury, were to be notified of this development.

I request that all Moore County, and Hoke County agency heads distribute this email to your employees, to the respective county grand juries, and to others within the court system.

Thanks and everyone do your best to stay safe and healthy!

James M. Webb
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 19D (Moore/Hoke)